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STRAINS OF THE NATIONAL POLITICAL PARTIES HIT HOME

In Missouri Senate race, candidates must navigate the following camps:

LEFT-PROGRESSIVE DEMOCRATS • CENTER-LEFT DEMOCRATS • CULTURAL CONSERVATIVES • ECONOMIC AND GLOBAL REPUBLICANS • NATIONALIST REPUBLICANS

BY CHUCK RAASCH
St. Louis Post-Dispatch

WASHINGTON • The maneuvering around the 2018 fight for Sen. Claire McCaskill's Senate seat in Missouri touches a larger story of eruptions inside the national Democratic and Republican parties.

For Democrats, those fissures were exposed in an exchange between McCaskill and NBC "Meet the Press" host Chuck Todd late last month.

Todd asked McCaskill whether self-professed moderates, like McCaskill, still have a home in the Democratic Party.

McCaskill gave a long answer about the minimum wage, protecting Social Security, Medicare and Medicaid and other pocketbook issues that she says unite Democrats. They have been staples of Democratic campaign promises for more than 30 years, and they often work when social issues or war don't intervene.

Missouri Democratic Sen. Claire McCaskill talks with Republican Missouri Attorney General Josh Hawley at the Missouri State Fair in Sedalia, Mo., in August.

But when Todd pressed, McCaskill said that one reason she spent so much time in rural Missouri this year was because President Donald Trump had connected, culturally, to Missourians in those parts of the state.

"Those people watching 'Dancing with the Stars,' they're not getting into the details of what we're doing on Pell grants," McCaskill said. "They are rather saying, 'Hey, I can't afford college, you know, give it to me straight.' And they don't think they've gotten it straight. … And the cultural issues divide cities and the rural areas."

McCaskill was acknowledging a criticism of the national Democratic Party: that it has lost connections with working-class Americans while waging campaigns based on identity politics.

The Post-Dispatch asked Democratic National Chairman Tom Perez, who was elected this year after

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NEW CITIZENS MARK PAST, FUTURE

ROBERT COHEN • rcohen@post-dispatch.com

Andrew Marsek, 3, shows his new bookmark to Bill Groth, 83, at the Ulysses S. Grant National Historic Site on Friday as 25 people took the Oath of Allegiance to become U.S. citizens. Andrew's mother, Ai Lien Marsek of Vietnam, was one of the 25. Groth, a member of the Sons of the American Revolution-Spirit of St. Louis chapter, wears a militia-style uniform modeled on those in the American Revolution. He said he was sometimes asked if he had served in World War I. "I tell them no, but I was with George in the Revolutionary War."

Bergdahl avoids prison for desertion

Army Sgt. Bowe Bergdahl

BY JONATHAN DREW
Associated Press

FORT BRAGG, N.C. • Army Sgt. Bowe Bergdahl, who walked away from his post in Afghanistan and triggered a search that left some of his comrades severely wounded, was spared a prison sentence by a military judge Friday in what President Donald Trump blasted as a "complete and total disgrace."

The judge gave no explanation of how he arrived at his decision, but he reviewed evidence that included the five years Bergdahl was held captive by the Taliban and the wounds suffered by troops who searched for him, including one who now uses a wheelchair and cannot speak.

The case was politically divisive. President Barack Obama traded Taliban

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Mizzou hopes to attract students back to dorms

BY ASHLEY JOST
St. Louis Post-Dispatch

ST. LOUIS • The University of Missouri-Columbia is cutting the cost of some on-campus housing options starting next fall.

That's one of many changes campus leaders announced Friday, along with new, reduced meal plan options and several others that they hope will make dorms more appealing to returning students.

Room rates for about one-third of on-campus living options are dropping from 2.2 percent to 5 percent, depending on location. Those dorm options that aren't decreasing in cost will

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CHRIS LEE • clee@post-dispatch.com

Morgan Myers (left) and her mother, Deborah Birmingham of Glenwood, Ill., try to plan the layout for Morgan's dorm room in August 2016 before the start of the fall semester.

Report contradicts Trump team on role of humans in warming

BY CHRIS MOONEY, JULIET EILPERIN AND BRADY DENNIS
Washington Post

WASHINGTON • President Donald Trump's administration released a dire scientific report Friday calling human activity the dominant driver of global warming, a conclusion at odds with White House decisions to withdraw from a key international climate accord, champion fossil fuels and reverse climate policies enacted under President Barack Obama.

To the surprise of some scientists, the White House did not seek to prevent the

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80°/48°
P.M. STORMS
WEATHER
B12

Happy hour

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FALL BACK

Daylight saving time ends Sunday. Don't forget to set your clocks back an hour before you go to bed.

Zoo temporarily closes grizzly habitat • **A2**
Sports, news host Bill Wilkerson dies • **A3**
Hiring rebounds from hurricanes' blow • **A6**
High school football playoffs • **B10**

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